



CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM

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February 19, 1997

Patrick McCarty, Chairman
Delta Protection Commission
P. O. Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Dear Pat:

Thank you for your October 28, 1996 letter commenting on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's *Phase I Final Report* dated September 1996. We appreciate you taking the time to relay your thoughts on the Program's System Integrity component.

I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter. The concerns you expressed have been made part of our public comment record and are being considered as we prepare the System Integrity component in the alternatives being refined at this time.

The System Integrity component is being developed by our technical team, consisting of agency experts, Reclamation District engineers and local Delta interests. Modifications of this component will be made as we move through the component refinement process with the technical team and BDAC, since it will be included in each alternative for evaluation. The System Integrity component includes a base level of funding (i.e., subventions) for maintenance of all Delta islands and special project funding for certain islands to meet various goals or objectives related to higher levels of levee stability. The Delta island prioritization process (see enclosed draft material) applies only to special projects funding and does not affect the base level maintenance funding for all islands. The purpose of the technical team is not to make policy decisions related to prioritization of levee stability work, but to prepare technical materials for presentation to BDAC for deliberation on the policy issues. It is our intention for BDAC to consider and prepare recommendations to the CALFED on a variety of scenarios for prioritizing levee stability work.

With respect to your quotation from the *Phase I Final Report*, "...it might prove prohibitively expensive to bring the entire Delta up to a common high level of flood protection," this statement was from a section of the report labeled "Considerations" and was meant to display concerns expressed by BDAC or the public. It does not express CALFED policy.

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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Again, I appreciate your interest in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program and look forward to your continued involvement in this important effort. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (916) 657-2666.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc Curt Schmutte
Victor Pacheco